

## City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 4, 2003

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *ps*

SUBJECT: SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES, FOR FUNDING OVERTIME FOR THE OFFICE OF SHERIFF AND THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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**ISSUE:** City Council consideration of a new grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice, Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office for funding overtime for the Office of Sheriff and the Police Department.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** That City Council:

- (1) Approve the grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice for a total of \$244,905 for one year, of which the federal share is 75 percent, or \$183,679, and the City share is 25 percent, or \$61,226;
- (2) Contingent upon federal approval of this grant application, allocate \$61,226 from the City's FY 2004 Contingent Reserve; and
- (3) Authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents.

**DISCUSSION:** The proposed grant would be submitted under the federal COPS Homeland Security Overtime Program (HSOP). Based on its population size, Alexandria qualifies for a maximum grant of \$250,000. The grant application guidelines provide that HSOP grants can be used to pay officer overtime during homeland security training sessions and other law enforcement activities that are designed to assist in the prevention of acts of terrorism and other violent and drug-related crimes. The funds may be used only for non-supervisory sworn personnel. HSOP grants must supplement the agency's locally funded officer overtime budgets. Agencies may not rely on HSOP grant funding to reduce the amount of local funds budgeted and expended for officer overtime in the current or future budget cycles. Finally, HSOP grants may not be used to reimburse grantees for overtime expenditures that occurred prior to the grant award.

Since September 11, 2001, the Police Department has incurred more than \$300,000 in unbudgeted overtime: responding to the September 11 attacks, developing rapid response capabilities, mobilizing during high threat alerts, and increasing security at all City special events, dignitary visits and large public gatherings. The Sheriff's Office has expended more than \$700,000 to provide perimeter security at the Public Safety Center, due to its housing of Zacarias Moussaoui and other high profile federal prisoners.

Staff propose to allocate the HSOP grant evenly between the Police Department and the Sheriff's Office, under the administration of the Police Department. Both departments are involved in significant homeland security related operations that are not funded in the approved FY 2004 Operating Budget largely due to the uncertain nature of terrorism-related incidents, which are often driven by decisions made by federal officials: e.g., Moussaoui's location, war preparations that recall police officers to active military duty, and heightened national threat levels.

The Police share of funds would help provide essential surveillance and security for City sponsored special events, for unscheduled events (such as trials and related activities at the federal courthouse, local or regional emergency incidents and political officials' visits to Alexandria) and for Police activities made necessary by the raising of the national threat level. Since 9/11, all City sponsored events have been reevaluated for adequate security and protection. ID checks, package checks, explosive device searches, undercover surveillance and similar activities have nearly doubled the overtime costs for the police presence; these increased costs are not covered in the FY 2004 budget.

The Sheriff's share of funds would help offset some of the perimeter security program costs at the Public Safety Center, or provide terrorism operational response training for Sheriff employees.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The fiscal impact of this grant is \$244,905, which would fund approximately 6,500 hours of overtime divided equally between Police and Sheriff operations. The federal share is \$183,679 or 75%, and the City share is \$61,226 or 25%. An allocation from FY 2004 contingent reserves would be required if City Council approves this grant. The grant requires that the match be a cash match, made from local, state or other non-COPS funds and may not be paid through reallocating funds otherwise budgeted for specific law enforcement purposes.

It should be noted that there are no funds in the City budget to continue this program once the federal grant expires. In addition, the City is responsible for the normal administrative costs associated with this grant. These costs include financial and reporting oversight by the administering agency (Police Department), the Office of Management and Budget and the Finance Accounting Department.

**ATTACHMENT:** None. The completed grant application may be reviewed in the Office of Management and Budget, Room 3600, City Hall, during normal office hours.

**STAFF:**

Charles Samarra, Chief of Police

James Dunning, Sheriff

Michele Evans, Assistant City Manager

Amy Flenniken, Division Chief, Police

Grealy Marshall, Fiscal Officer, Sheriff

Alfred Coleman, Budget/Management Analyst, OMB

Stott Mason, Budget/Management Analyst, OMB